

Appl. No. 10/661,042
Amtd. dated August 10, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26 would be allowable if amended to independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 17, 18, 21 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Harai (US 4,612,629). Claims 4, 7-8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Harai.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the features of claim 2; claim 21 has been rewritten to include the features of claim 22, and claim 24 has been rewritten to include the features of claim 25. Therefore, the independent claims 1, 21 and 24 should all be allowable.

In claims 1, 21 and 24, the phrases, "ending and a there-with associated" and "further having borders separated from said central axis by a distance" are deleted, because they are not necessary for patentability of the invention. "Said second direction perpendicularly intersecting with said first direction" is changed to "said second direction perpendicular with said first direction", because one of ordinary skill understands that two directions can be perpendicular with each other, regardless of whether lines oriented in the two perpendicular directions intersect each other, so "intersecting" is not necessary for patentability of the claim.

Claims 2, 22 and 25 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 3-20 are dependent on claim 1. Claims 22-23 are dependent on claim 21. Claim 26 is dependent on claim 24. Therefore, claims 3-20, 22-23 and 26 should also be patentable as well.

Claims 4, 11, 14 and 18 were objected to as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

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Applicant respectfully traverses this objection with respect to claim 4. Claim 4 does not recite, "conductive interconnects," as suggested in the Action. Claim 4 requires that "said first layer of metal comprising multiple first level metal interconnects." Claim 1 only requires "at least one first level metal interconnect". Thus, claim 1 permits a single first level metal interconnect, and does not require multiple first level metal interconnects, as required by claim 4. Therefore claim 4 further limits the subject matter of claim 1, and the objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 14 and 18 are rewritten to depend on and further limit the subject matter of claim 11. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 11, 14 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 35 is added to more fully cover the invention.

Withdrawn claims 32-34 are canceled without prejudice, to avoid additional claim fees for new claim 35 and for newly independent claim 11.

Several claims are amended to correct grammar and use present tense consistently. For example, in claim 1 and others, "having been created" is deleted to use the present tense form.

In claim 4 and others, "linearly positioned" is changed to "positioned along a line" which is more grammatically correct.

In various claims, "sub-set" and "there-of" are changed to "subset" and "thereof", as these words should not be hyphenated.

Several claims (e.g., claim 10) were written as incomplete sentences, so the term "wherein" is added, and "comprising" is changed to "comprise" or "comprises" to make the claims read as sentences.

The above grammatical changes are not related to any requirement for patentability of the claims, and do not narrow the scope of the claims in any event.

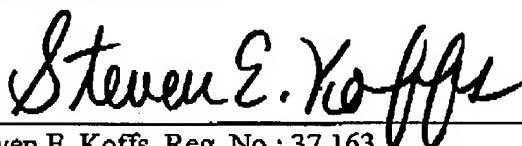
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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